

below par. Indeed the behaviour of this class furnishes an excuse for the prejudice of the Army Medical Department against the employment of women nurses.

This prejudice is of course ill-founded, and we agree with Mr. Hales in hoping that in future wars the number of trained nurses in proportion to patients will be largely augmented. What we need is organization and professional control, which could be best attained by the Army Nursing Department before mentioned. In any war in the future also, it is to be hoped that a Head Officer of the nurses as well as of the forces will be sent to the seat of war, for as it is undoubted that had our army been despatched to the front without a Commander-in-Chief, and Generals under him, the conduct of individual men would have been most gallant, but the work of the Army as a whole would have suffered from this want of cohesion, so with our nursing department, good work would have been better work had this principle been recognised and carried out.

With regard to the Nursing College, we have pleaded for it for years, and we are glad to see its necessity recognized by others. Only the education afforded to nurses to fit them for emergency nursing in time of peace, and for active service in war—if undertaken by it at all—should be only one department of its work. Its scope must be to focus all nursing interests, to provide courses of preliminary education for intending probationers, theoretical instruction for pupil-nurses, and post graduate courses, both in special subjects and in modern methods, for graduates. There is plenty of scope for the work of such a College, and it would be a mistake to narrow its functions to one department of nursing alone.

Dr. Ritchie at the last meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians, drew upon himself the reproof of the Chairman when he asserted that the nurses in the house were living, eating, and sleeping in a culture bed of typhoid fever. If, however, the prevailing conditions are as reported by him, we do not consider his criticism one whit too strong. He further defended his statement by saying that the Chairman knew that it was substantiated by the Medical Officer, and that the nurses living in the hospital had leaking drains all round them and lavatories which could not be emptied. Under these conditions, and having regard to the fact that eight of the nurses are believed by the Medical Officer to be suffering from enteric fever, it is about time some one spoke out. The Chairman's statement that the Guardians are doing their best to remedy

any "little defect," and that any Guardian who has the interests of the Institution at heart will try to effect a remedy privately instead of trying to malign the establishment, indicates that he fails to appreciate the gravity of the situation, while there is no substance in his argument that the sickness is confined to the fever hospital, and that over 100 nurses in other departments are in good health. This statement merely localizes the source of infection, for it is well known that under proper hygienic conditions, and with the observance of ordinary precautions, nurses do not contract enteric fever from their patients. Dr. Ritchie appears to us to be fulfilling a public duty.

We learn that Cupid has been busy among the nursing staff of the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, and that Sister Burtwell and Sister Skerman, who have completed their three years' contract with the Directors, are leaving to be married.

Sister Burtwell was trained and certificated at St. George's Hospital, London, where she afterwards held the position of Sister. She was appointed to her present position in 1898. She will be married in Rio shortly.

Sister Florence M. Skerman was trained and certificated at Guy's Hospital, and afterwards held the position of Night Superintendent at Gore Farm Fever Hospital, and Assistant Matron at the Metropolitan Convalescent Home, Broadstairs. In 1897 she was one of the Sisters selected for service in Greece in connection with the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund for the Greek Wounded. She holds the Greek Red Cross, awarded by the Queen of the Hellenes in recognition of services on behalf of those wounded in war in the year 1897. Miss Skerman is returning to England for a holiday before her marriage, but will probably settle in Rio.

Their colleagues in this country will wish all happiness to Miss Burtwell and Miss Skerman in their new life.

Mrs. McKinley, the wife of the President of the United States, whose late serious illness aroused so much sympathy throughout the world, has given to each of the nurses who attended her a valuable gold ring. Upon one was engraved "Ida McKinley to E. H." (Ellen Hunt), the other "Ida McKinley to S.T.," the last two initials standing for Sarah Taylor.

In an admirable article on the Hospital Kitchen in the *National Hospital Record*, Miss Ellen H. Richards says in part:—

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